



September 29, 1999

**SPIRE CORPORATION TO PROVIDE BP SOLAR MALAYSIA
WITH PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULE MANUFACTURING LINE**

Bedford, Massachusetts . . . 29 September 1999 . . . Spire Corporation (NASDAQ:SPIR) today announced that it will provide a **SPI-LINE™** turn-key photovoltaic (PV) module production line to BP Solar Malaysia Sdn Bhd, a joint venture between BP Solarex and Projass Enecorp Sdn Bhd. This SPI-LINE integrated production line is specifically designed for BP Solar Malaysia using Spire's advanced PV module assembly equipment.

The country of Malaysia has shown leadership in using solar electricity in rural development programs. The government recently announced that it will include renewable energy in its national Five Fuels program. BP Solar Malaysia will manufacture solar photovoltaic modules using Spire's production line to satisfy the demands of this growing local market.

The world wide photovoltaic module market is estimated to be \$1.2 billion in 1999 and growing to \$3 billion in five years. The installation of new manufacturing capacity in Malaysia is part of a trend towards distributed manufacturing of photovoltaic modules. "Our experience has shown that local manufacturing of modules stimulates the market for PV products," said Roger G. Little, Spire's President and CEO. "BP Solarex and our other customers see the competitive advantage of distributed manufacturing. They also recognize the importance of

Spire as the credible partner needed to establish reliable production lines around the globe.”

Spire Corporation is the world's leading supplier of photovoltaic manufacturing equipment and production lines, with 142 customer facilities located in 42 countries world wide. **Spire Solar** is a Spire Corporation business unit which establishes local PV manufacturing enterprises in selected locations throughout the world.

Visit our web site at www.spirecorp.com

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